

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FLORA OF QUEENSLAND.

BY THE REV. B. SCORTECHINI, F.L.S.

During a short stay at Stanthorpe, a township situated in Queensland, near the borders of New South Wales, I happened to make several botanical excursions in its neighbourhood, and being fortunate in discovering a few plants new to the Queensland Flora, I hasten to communicate to this Society the result of my observations. The inland as well as the littoral south Queensland districts need to be more thoroughly searched before a complete Flora of the colony can be worked out, not to mention that many valuable additions may be expected both from the northern and western regions. In drawing up a list of these plants, I have availed myself of the systematic census of all Australian plants now with great care and much assiduous labour, elaborated by Baron von Müeller, to the great advantage of Australian Botany. Thus, it was an easy matter to discard from the present list any species, which other workers in the field might have found about the same locality. Only such plants therefore, are here admitted as the latest data of our knowledge in geological botany have not hitherto attributed to Queensland.

The vicinity of Stanthorpe where these plants were obtained, stands on elevated ground. The elevation from the sea level attains something like 3,000 feet. Snow and frost are not strangers there in the winter season, while the summer months are more enjoyable there, than in any other spot in Queensland. Colonists who to avoid the summer heat, resort to the sea coast, would do well to spend these days on the high elevations of Stanthorpe. It is the lofty region of the Blue Mountains that Sydney affords to its inhabitants when in quest of pure air, and bracing climate. The modest scenery around Stanthorpe cannot be indeed compared with the grand awe-inspiring scenes which are seen amid the Blue Mountains. Still here and there nature displays such sights as are not easily forgotten, and the lover of plants finds here much to gratify his heart.

The geological formation of the country is granite. It is a continuation of the main axis of the eastern table land, rich in mineral deposits. It differs from the Blue Mountains, which are sandstone, although the detritus of both look much the same. It is very striking to meet several sub-alpine plants common to both. From which we may safely infer that the character of vegetations depends more on climatic agencies, than on the nature of the soil.

It may be well to note here, that nearly every one of the plants of which I subjoin a list, was discovered by Mr. C. Stuart, in the adjoining district of New England, within the borders of New South Wales.

RHAMNACEÆ.

Pomaderris prunifolia. A. Cunn.

Close by a rivulet that wends its way through rocky ridges a short distance north of Stanthorpe, a tall straggling shrub growing abundantly in company with *Acacia decurrens*, *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum*.

LEGUMINOSÆ.

Mirbelia speciosa. Sib. in Dl. Prod. II., 115.

Judging from the general aspect, the verticillate leaves and pods, the identification of the specimens gathered among barren rocks with this species seems nearly certain. Flowers were wanting. While it is very abundant on the Blue Mountains, it appears very scarce around Stanthorpe, at least in those places which have been visited. C. Stuart has traced it to New England. The further it removes from its central home, the Blue Mountains, the less copious it becomes, till at a lower altitude, or more northerly directions it ceases to grow.

MYRTACEÆ.

Baeckea densifolia. Sm. in Tran. Linn. Soc. iii., 266.

On wet clayish flats, growing side by side with the small-leaved variety of its congener *B. crenulata*, with which it shares the general habit. Yet close inspection discloses a very marked difference in the leaves, in the number, shape, and dehiscence of the anthers, in the form of filaments, and above all, in the number of the ovary cells. It is nearer to *B. virgata*, with which it is

classed under the same section, yet inflorescence and form of leaves separate them both one from the other. It is distinct too, at any rate as a variety from *B. Nova-anglica*, or *Babingtonia Nova-anglica* of Müeller gathered in New Zealand. The smallness of the flowers, the obtuse and not turbinate shape of the calyx at the base point to the typical form.

Callistemon pithyoides, Mig. in Ned. Kruidk. Arch. iv., 142.

What I forwarded to Baron von Müller as a doubtful *Melaleuca*, he recognises as this species, of which other specimens had been sent to him with perfect flowers from other quarters. While the flowers of this plant remained unknown, in generic position it was hovering between a *Callistemon* and a *Melaleuca*. Miguel with some hesitation, throws it among the *Callistemons*, while in Baron von Müller's Herbarium, it was named *Melaleuca*. The inspection of flowers now dispels all doubts as to its being a *Callistemon*, and it must henceforth be placed in that genus. On swampy ground, a low bush bearing the aspect of a stunted *Melaleuca nodosa* may be seen growing near Stanthorpe, close by the creek, or a few miles away at a short distance from the foot of a hillock, enjoying the more pretentious name of Blue Mountains. It is our *Callistemon*. At the time of my ramble the rather copious individuals of this species scattered all over the swamps had done flowering. Only here and there some stray young shoot was lagging behind to yield scanty blossoms.

Melaleuca armillaris Sm. in Trans. Linn. Soc. iii., 277.

A handsome free flowering shrub, growing in abundance along the banks of Quart Pot Creek. The general aspect is that of *M. linearifolia* of the semi-tropical coast districts, with which at the first sight I had confused it. The arrangement of the leaves, the much longer staminal bundles, with long slender filaments, pinnately set, and the very loose flowering spikes separate it from *M. linearifolia*, although both are united under the same section of *spiciflorae*.

Eucalyptus capitellata Sin. Bot. Nov. Holl. 42. var.

A tree of not very imposing dimensions growing chiefly on flats close to Stanthorpe. Whether I am right in referring it to this

species further observation will decide. The exact sameness of the fruiting calyx, and shape of leaves would make it pass for *E. capitellata* without any doubt. Yet there is a divergence in the shape of the lid which comes near that of *E. macrorrhynca*, with which *E. capitellata* is closely allied. The operculum of the Stanthorpe specimens is neither so conical as that of *E. macrorrhynca*, or so hemispherical as that of *E. capitellata*. The excellent figures of both species drawn for Baron v. Mueller's imperishable work on Eucalyptus when compared with our specimens render this fact evident. As all other characters agree with *E. capitellata*, the departure, not great indeed, in the shape of the operculum will warrant the distinction as a variety from the normal *E. capitellata*.

UMBELLIFERÆ.

Actinotus Gibbonsii F. v. M. Frag. VI, 23.

The only other station recorded for this plant is M'Leod's Creek in New England, where E. Stuart first discovered it. It may be passed over unnoticed by any collector owing to its humble decumbent habit, and strongly contrasts with its more showy congener *G. helianthi* Labill. This may be seen growing close by, on long stalks, the snow white softly velvety flower heads, while the sessile umbels among rocks make the small species easily escape observation.

COMPOSITÆ.

Aster ramulssus Labill., Nov. Holl. Pl. sp. 51.

At the time this plant was collected the florets and achenes were gone, only the scarios involucre remaining, this, the habit of the plant, and leaves, have been the only clue leading to its discrimination. Abundant on those granite hillocks which form quite a feature of the Stanthorpe scenery.

Brachycome discolor, C. Stuart in Benth. Fl. Austr.

Brachycome Stuartii Benth. Fl. Aust. III, S.B.

Brachycome ciliaris, Less syn., comp. 172.

Three *Brachycomes*, which along with *B. multifida* grow together on damp flats, not far from Stanthorpe. The redness of the under side of the leaves of *B. discolor*, as noticed by E. Stuart, is very

apparent in fresh specimens. *B. multifida* was first collected by me within Queensland borders on the Maranoa about twelve months ago. Within a short time there have been four species of *Brachycome* added to the scanty number of species already known to belong to Queensland. Further additions may be expected of the thirty-eight species recorded for Australia. New South Wales musters the largest number, thirty-one being endemic there, whereas Queensland, even including those newly discovered possesses no more than eight species: considering therefore that the head quarters of the genus lies in temperate climate we may expect more species in the cool regions within Queensland boundaries.

Leptorrhyncus squamatus Less. Syn., comp., 273.

The same plant has been seen by me in the neighbourhood of Roma. Around Stanthorpe it is rather scarce. It has been noticed in two or three places close to the creek that runs by Stanthorpe.

GOODENACEAE.

Dampiera Brownii, F v. M. Frag. VI, 29.

Only few specimens of this species were obtained near a gully about a mile from Stanthorpe. Under this specific designation several varieties are now grouped, which were once considered by R. Brown as distinct species. What I gathered on the Blue Mountains as *D. Brownii* on many minor points shows a divergence from the Stanthorpe specimens.

LOGANIACEAE.

Logania floribunda., R. Br. Prod. 456.

Along a streamlet which wends its way to Quart-pot creek among rocks a few individuals of this species may be seen growing with *Pomaderris prunifolia*, *Acacia decurrens*, *Leptospermum*, &c. At the time when my collection was made the flowers were gone, giving place to the capsule which has been a secure guide to its identification. The same plant I have gathered on the Blue Mountains.

JASMINEÆ.

Notelea linearis, Benth. Fl. Austr. iv. 300.

Very plentiful down the creek a short distance from town, growing among boulders. The dark red, and occasionally white drupes, which were rather abundant on the branches, have been the only data remaining for the determination of the species.

PROTEACEÆ.

Hakea microcarpa, R. Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc., X, 182.

The flowers were not obtainable to see the sectional characters of this species, still the leaves, the horned fruit, and form of seed wing afford enough evidence for its recognition. Rather plentiful along the sandy banks of the creek.

Hakea dactyloides Cav., Ann., Hist., Nat., I, 213.

Unfortunately the flowers of this species too were wanting at the time the specimens were collected. By a process of analytical reasoning alone I was able to arrive at framing a nearly certain estimate as to the identity of the specimens with *H. dactyloides*. Of section *Grevilloides* to *H. trineura* alone it could approach, but the short clusters of flowers as the position of the fruits suggest remove it not alone from *H. trineura*, but from the whole section. In section *Euhakea* there is no species either eastern or western with flat, triply nerved leaves, such as our *Hakea* possesses. The three first series of section *Conogynoides*, including all western species, afford no type to which our plant can be referred. The last three series of the same section, that is *Uninerves*, *Enerves*, and *Teretifoliae*, as their very name implies, exclude this three nerve leaved *Hakea*, as also the last section of *Manglesioides*, including all western, and either terete or nerveless leaved *Hakeas*. There thus remains only the series *Nervosae* of *Conogynoides* sheltering species with leaves lanceolate or linear, three or more nerved, where our specimens may find a place. Pursuing the same process of comparison further within the precincts of this series, we come face to face with *H. dactyloides* offering much resemblance, if not entire identity with our plant. Minor points of difference are the rather curved beak of the fruit instead of being straight as described, the narrowness or total absence of the wing decurrent on the upper

margin of the seed ; the length and narrowness of leaves slightly departing from the normal form. There are specimens of *H. dactyloides* collected by C. Stuart in New England, having rigid narrow leaves nearly approaching those of *H. ulicina*, to which specimens ours appear to be very similar.

Grevillea ilicifolia, R. Br., Prot., Nov. 21, var., *Scortechini*,
F. v. M., Mss.

On the sandy banks of a deep gully. Its trailing habit uncommon for the species, which is described as a large spreading shrub, the second racemes of flowers, the silvery underside of the leaves would at once suggest *G. laurifolia* of frequent occurrence on the Blue Mountains, or *G. repens* of more southern latitudes, or something between the two. It is a very marked variety of *G. ilicifolia*. Any botanist adopting less rigid views than Baron von Mueller on the nature of species would perhaps have raised it to specific rank. My impression was that its prostrate habit, the distance from where *G. ilicifolia* has its home with no intermediate stations, the rather more hemispherical than oblique follicle covered with a white tomentum which on the back turns deep purple in irregular lines, the larger flowers, the larger glans would have afforded sufficient characters to separate it specifically from *G. ilicifolia*. In a group of Grevilleas among which this is numbered, none of them presenting highly differential marks it seemed natural to give to it the same position as the others enjoy. After a careful comparison the learned Baron comes to the conclusion that this is simply a variety of *G. ilicifolia* resting on the larger size of the flowers, and greater prominence of the hypogynous gland. I learn from the same authority that occasionally *G. ilicifolia* is prostrate quite as much as *G. repens*, and that *G. ilicifolia* has been traced by him so far back as 1854, into N. S. Wales, though no record of it appears ever to have been published.

EUPHORBIACEÆ.

Bertya rosmarinifolia. Planch in Hook, Lond. Jour., iv., 473.

In the cracks of rocks cropping up close to Quatpot Creek, only a couple of capsules left on the plant have helped to its

identification. The flowering must have been over months ago, when the fruiting at the time of collecting was at an end.

SANTALACEÆ.

Choretium lateriflorum. R. Br., Prod. 354.

CONIFERÆ.

Callitris Muelleri. Benth and Hook, Gen., pl. iii., 420.

There is no doubt as to this species. The fruit-cones, and the dorsal points of their valves point to no other *species*. A small pine-tree growing on very rocky ground.

LILIACEÆ.

Arthropodium laxum. Sieb. in Boem, syst., vii., 441.

Rather abundant on grassy moist soil not far off Stanthorpe.

ADDENDA.

Bossica scortechini. F. v. M., in S. Science Record, January, 1883.

On rocky hills close to Stanthorpe, the description of this species by Baron von Mueller is now going through the press.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW FUNGI.

BY THE REV. C. KALCHBRENNER.

Polyporus Pentzkei, Kalchbrenner (Sect. Pleuropus).

Pileus tenuis coriaceus elongato-obovatus basi cuneatus fere concavus glaber zonatus ex-ochraceo-fuscidulus, linea recta in stipitem cylindricum aequilongum pallidum apice hand dilatatum descendens, pari stipiti concolores albido-ochracei minimi.

Daintree River, Pentzke.

Paxillus hirtulus. F. v. Mueller.

Pileus e convexo depressus margine involutus luride fuscescens, stipes deorsum incrassatus et pallidior ad basim abruptam radicans hirtulus, lamellæ adnatæ æqualiter decurrentes confertæ angustæ luridæ.

Daintree River, Pentzke.

Pluribus notis *P. sordario* convenit sed multo minor, pileus vix 3-4 lineas latus stipes circiter pollicaris et sesquilineam crassus.